



Somaliland Update / August 2021



New parliament inaugurated

Somaliland's newly elected parliament was sworn in on August 3 following May 31 elections that were widely [recognized](#) as free and fair by international observers. Ernest Bai Koroma, former president of Sierra Leone and member of the Limited International Election Observation Mission in Somaliland, [commended](#) the country on "peaceful, free and orderly parliamentary and local council elections [and] for such extraordinary turnout and great determination to exercise their democratic rights." In a joint [statement](#), representatives from international partners – including the UK, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland – said they look forward to "strengthening our cooperation with the newly elected local councils and parliament." [Read more](#)



President Bihi's message to the U.S.: "East Africa's Ray of Hope in a Challenging Year for Democracy"

In an opinion piece for *Newsweek*, President Bihi urged direct collaboration between Somaliland and the United States, outlining Somaliland's strong democracy, deterrence of terrorism and sustained economic stability and development. Somaliland, the president emphasized, can "uniquely help fellow democracies like the United States address regional problems that could severely impair their strategic interests." The President underscored similarities between Somaliland and Taiwan, both democracies in strategic regions with an enduring interest in direct dialogue with the U.S., noting, "We look forward to further demonstrating, in partnership with the United States, that democracies are more effective at making a real difference in the lives of their citizens and serving as a beacon for others seeking basic human freedoms." [Read more](#)



Somaliland celebrates 30 years of independence

On May 18, Somaliland marked the 30th anniversary of its decision in 1991 to end its union with the former Italian Somalia and reaffirm its independent sovereign status. Though official celebrations were postponed due to COVID-19, the people of Somaliland nonetheless commemorated the country's successes in the three decades since establishing a strong democratic system of government, economic stability that has attracted foreign investors such as Coca Cola and DP World, and security in an otherwise volatile region. [Read more](#)



Somalilander-American Health Association (SAHA) applauded by dignitaries

At an event in late June, President Bihi and Somaliland Minister of Health Omar Ali Abdilahi applauded the work of the Somalilander-American Health Association (SAHA), a nonprofit comprised of healthcare professionals dedicated to delivering equitable health outcomes to the people of Somaliland. The organization, which is registered in the U.S. and Somaliland, was formed in response to COVID-19, aiming to fill gaps in emergency response to the pandemic in Somaliland. Its efforts played a major role in making oxygen available across the country throughout the outbreak. [Read more](#)



REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND

Country Profile 2021

Somaliland launches first-of-its-kind country profile

In June, Somaliland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation launched a [country profile](#), the first of its kind since Somaliland reclaimed its national sovereignty in 1991, providing an accessible overview of key facts and figures about the country in eight focus areas: government, geography, demographics, historical background, economy, investment potential, the rebirth of Somaliland and the legal case for Somaliland. At the launch ceremony, Somaliland Vice President Abdirahman Saylici said, "I am extremely grateful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for undertaking this national task, which will go a long way in projecting correct facts about the country's history, population, map, area and other relevant basic facts." [Read more](#)



Hargeisa by Sharmaarke Ali Adan

British-Somali artist explores Hargeisa through photography and film

Sharmaarke Ali Adan casts an eye on Somaliland's capital Hargeisa in his latest project, a [photo book](#) and accompanying film "capturing the beauty of the traditional style and mundane routines of its people and their surroundings on analog film cameras." Discussing his work, Adan said he "aimed to rebuild some of what was lost [during the Somali civil war] by creating modern representation for the new generation," and wants young people to be proud of their identity as Somalilanders. [Read more](#)

Somaliland is Open for Business



DP World 
@DP_World

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Today His Excellency, [@musebiihi](#) & our Chairman [@ssulayem](#) opened the new terminal at Berbera Port. Along with the development of the Berbera Corridor, it will transform Berbera into an integrated maritime, industrial & logistics hub in the Horn of Africa.

lnkd.in/devnJsM



DP World terminal at Berbera Port Opens, marking Somaliland's emergence as a major trade hub

In June, the Government of Somaliland and Dubai-based ports operator DP World [inaugurated](#) a new container terminal at the Berbera Port with a high-level Ethiopian delegation present. The opening of the terminal marked the completion of the first phase of the port expansion project, which is part of DP World's \$442 million investment to transform the port into a major regional trade hub for the Horn of Africa. At the event, DP World Group Chairman and CEO Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem announced plans for the second phase of expansion of the terminal, which will increase its containerized cargo capacity to two million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), as well as participated in a symbolic groundbreaking for the new Berbera Economic Zone, which will serve as a center for trade, attract investment and

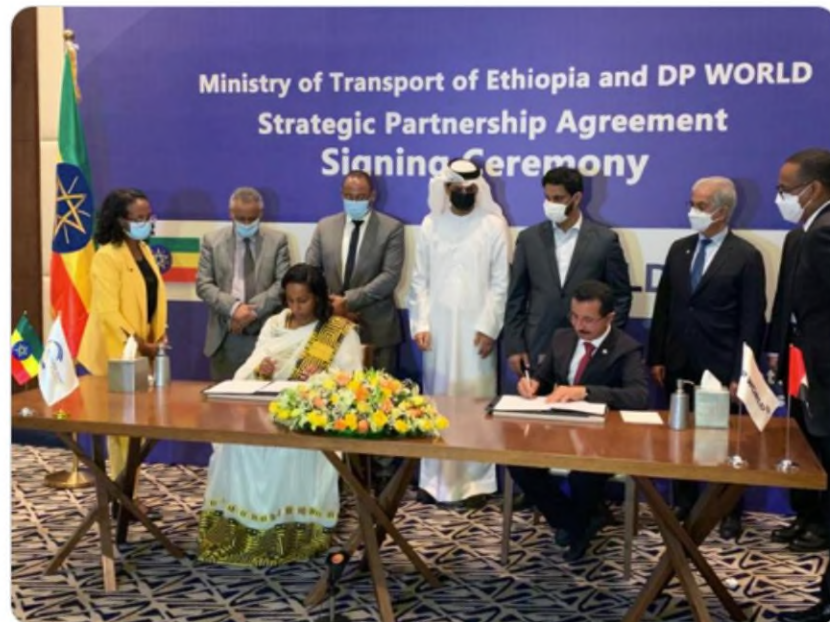
create jobs. In a [blog post](#) following the inauguration, Bin Sulayem said the terminal was a step toward “realizing our shared vision, long-term confidence, and intention to transform Berbera into a major maritime, industrial, and logistics hub in the Horn of Africa, especially for Ethiopian transit cargo.” [Read more](#)



Abdirashid Ibrahim Abdirahman
@cabdirashed

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@DP_World & #Ethiopia signed an MoU to develop the Ethiopian side of the road linking Ethiopia to #Somaliland, the emerging trade and logistics corridor.
@dagmawit_moges, Ethiopia's Minister of Transport & @DP_World CEO, @ssulayem, signed the agreement.



Ethiopia and DP World sign \$1 billion deal to develop Berbera Corridor

In early May, DP World and Ethiopia's Ministry of Transport signed an agreement in Addis Ababa to develop the road linking Ethiopia to Berbera in Somaliland into a trade and logistics corridor linking East Africa to major global markets. DP World and its partners plan to invest up to \$1 billion over the next 10 years to develop supply chain infrastructure along the corridor,

including dry ports, silos, warehouses, container yards, cool and cold chain depots, freight forwarding and clearing activities. [Read more](#)



EU Del in Somalia ✓
@EU_in_Somalia

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EU Ambassador @NBerlangaEU today attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the EU-funded #Berbera Beach Development project. "The public beach project will not only be an attractive recreation opportunity for the people of Berbera, but also a unique economic opportunity." he said.



European Union launches Berbera Beach Project with the Berbera Municipality and UN-Habitat

The European Union in May launched the Berbera Beach Development Project as part of its effort to support [inclusive and sustainable development](#) of the coastal city. The beach component will be implemented by the Berbera Municipality and UN-Habitat through October 2021 and will include development of public spaces, sports and youth facilities, a market area, a recycling facility and additional spaces for street vendors and cultural activities. [Read more](#)

Somaliland port city powered by high-class microgrid technology

Berbera is one of the first cities worldwide being supplied energy, monitored and controlled using microgrid technology. The microgrid consists of two solar plants with a total capacity of 8MW, a containerized lithium-ion power storage system with a capacity of 2MWh and three modern diesel generators, which has enabled the city to reduce its electricity tariff. [Read more](#)

Somaliland on the International Stage



MFA Somaliland 
@somalilandmfa

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Hon.Liban Yousuf Osman Acting and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation attended the inauguration of Somaliland-Kenya parliamentary caucus aimed to strengthen collaboration between Somaliland and Kenya



Somaliland and Kenya launch caucus to strengthen ties

Parliamentarians from Kenya and Somaliland launched a caucus in June aimed at strengthening diplomatic, trade and sociopolitical ties between the two countries. This agreement follows a visit to Kenya by President Bihi at the invitation of President Uhuru Kenyatta six months earlier. “We endeavor to push the frontiers of cooperation and friendship and seek to remove any hindrances so that our people can trade across borders, make and seek investments and opportunities in every possible way,” caucus chairperson Sophia Abdi Noor said. [Read more](#)



外交部 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ROC (Taiwan)  
@MOFA_Taiwan

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Minister Wu & @DeputyLiban, acting minister of @somalilandmfa, inked the #Taiwan-#Somaliland Medical Cooperation Agreement. The pact, an example of the #TaiwanModel in action, enables our #HornOfAfrica friend & partner to boost health care services capacity benefiting the people.



Taiwan and Somaliland continue to strengthen relations through medical cooperation agreement and other initiatives

Since establishing formal diplomatic relations last year, Taiwan and Somaliland have continued to deepen their diplomatic relations with a number of partnerships between the countries. The two countries signed the Taiwan-Somaliland Medical Cooperation Agreement in June, with Taiwan set to dispatch a medical mission to Somaliland to establish a new hospital in Hargeisa and provide training for medical workers. Beyond their medical pact, twenty Somaliland students have been awarded scholarships to study in Taiwan under a program that covers a four-year undergraduate program, two years for a master's degree, and four years for a doctoral program.



Mohamed Ali Bile ✓
@BilemohamedAli

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Fruitful meeting with West Africa delegation attending [#Somaliland](#) 61 independence anniversary ceremony of 26 June. The team lead by former Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau H. E. Baciro Djà [@BaciroDja](#) paid courtesy visits to Somaliland Vice President [@VPsomaliland](#) this morning.



Somaliland hosts delegation from Guinea Bissau

President Bihi and Vice President Saylici received a delegation from Guinea Bissau led by the country's former Prime Minister H.E. Baciro Dja in late June. The delegation was visiting the country for its 61st independence anniversary celebrations, marking Somaliland's independence from Great Britain in 1960.

Closing Viewpoints

COUNCIL *on* FOREIGN RELATIONS

“Recognizing Somaliland's Democratic Success”

Making the case for more recognition of Somaliland, Michelle Gavin, Senior Fellow for Africa Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, writes: “Somaliland’s achievements and dogged commitment to its principles deserve more notice. Somaliland stands as a rebuke to those who claim that authoritarianism is simply the required price of stability in the region, or that democratic principles are a fetish of foreigners with no real traction on the ground. Its successes should also prompt policymakers abroad, currently fixated on the Horn of Africa’s multiple crises, to rethink what is possible in the region.” [Read more](#)



“Somaliland Elections Disrupt al-Shabaab’s Regional Expansion”

Jamestown Foundation fellow Michael Horton discusses Somaliland’s elections and al-Shabaab, saying: “Somaliland’s recent nationwide elections passed with no reports of violence. This is despite the fact that al-Shabaab must have viewed such elections and mass gatherings of people as prime targets. Any attacks on the elections would have embarrassed the government and undermined trust in the authorities’ ability to protect their citizens. The fact that no attacks took place, even in problematic areas near the Puntland border, is further evidence of the effectiveness of Somaliland’s approach to combatting terror.” [Read more](#)

The Economist

“A state of one’s own: Somaliland deserves international recognition”

An opinion piece published in the *Economist*’s May 8 edition urges international recognition for Somaliland, saying: “Meanwhile, denying them recognition imposes severe human costs. Somalilanders cannot travel freely, since few countries accept Somaliland passports. They are poorer than they should be, since their government does not have the status to make trade deals or borrow directly from the World Bank or the IMF. Statehood would help fix some of these problems. [...] Other countries should recognise it, and international organisations should treat it like a state. Were Somaliland to win formal independence again, its road ahead would be hard. But the odds of flourishing would be much better this time. It now has not only a breezy national anthem but also a 30-year record of reasonably successful self-rule. To recognise that is to recognise reality.” [Read more](#)



Office of the Somaliland Representative in the United States

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